Background and rationale to the meeting

Preventing transmission from affected patients to the community and healthcare workers through implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) standards and best practices has been one of the pillars of the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Indeed, the lack of adequate IPC infrastructures and supplies and poor knowledge of the importance of IPC measures has been recognized as one of the main factors determining the unprecedented magnitude of viral spread in the affected countries.

Within the strategic plans for early and longer-term health system recovery developed by the governments of the three highly affected countries, IPC and patient safety are one of the highest priority areas for urgent development. Improving water and sanitation (WASH), IPC infrastructure and supplies and ultimately, practices in health-care facilities is crucial. Many lessons have been learned during the dramatic developments of the Ebola outbreak; affected countries have already started to make progress to different extent in the field of IPC. However, putting in place a deeply rooted and sustainable system for IPC in health care requires major efforts and focus. Sharing progress, plans and strategic approaches among countries which face the same challenges will help identify the most promising strategies and possible synergies. Ministry of Health delegations will lead the roll out of this meeting with the presentation of their plans, activities, challenges and proposals for collaboration and mutual learning. The role of WHO and invited partners will be to offer technical input as appropriate, and facilitate discussion, mutual learning and coordination among countries.
Objectives

- Discuss the current status of IPC and WASH in health care facilities in each country describing progress achieved so far during the response and transition phase
- Share the strategic plans for IPC and WASH improvement in the context of health systems recovery, for both the current early phase and the medium-/long-term
- Define immediate priorities and needs and medium-/long-terms objectives
- Discuss plans for implementation and services and resources needed including roles and responsibilities.
- Identify successful approaches according to lessons learned so far including potential unified approaches and mechanisms for cross-country learning and collaboration, within the context of the WHO Ebola Strategy
- Agree on specific monitoring and evaluation strategies and common key performance indicators
- Establish a mechanism for continuous sharing of IPC documents, tools and progress reports
- Discuss mechanisms for routine supportive communication and sharing of lessons learned
- Agree a timeframe and coordination framework for next steps in support of national leaders and international partners

Expected outputs

- Specific comprehensive meeting report sections describing the progress achieved on IPC as result of progress during the response phase, and the IPC plans, implementation strategies and current activities for recovery in the affected countries
- Identified unified approaches and mechanisms for cross-country learning and collaboration, and concrete inter-country IPC and WASH activities to be implemented
- Identified common IPC and WASH standards and indicators to be implemented and monitored in health-care facilities
- Agreed mechanism for continuous sharing of knowledge, lessons learned, IPC and WASH documents, tools and progress reports
- Final meeting report

Invited participants: MOH representatives, WHO and CDC representatives (COs & HQ), relevant partners in IPC/WASH from each country

Sponsors: CDC and WB
Venue: Kendeja Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia
Date: 20-22 July 2015

Agenda

Opening Ceremony - Day 1 afternoon

13:30 Introductions of participants
14:00 Words of welcome (Alex Gasasira, WR Liberia)
14:05 Opening remarks (Dierdre Kiernan, UNICEF Liberia)
14:10 Opening and welcome remarks (Bernice Dahn, Minister of Health & Social Welfare, Liberia)
14:30 Group photograph

Session 1. Objectives of the meeting and overviews from WHO HQ and AFRO (Chair, Moses Massaquoi, MOH Liberia)

14:45 Administrative and security announcements and objectives of the meeting (Benedetta Allegranzi, WHO HQ)
15:00 Global view on IPC and WASH (Ed Kelley, Benedetta Allegranzi and Margaret Montgomery, WHO HQ)
15:30 Overview of IPC in the African Region (Jean Bosco Ndihokubwayo and Magaran Bagayoko, WHO AFRO)
16:00 BREAK

Session 2. Country presentations on IPC achievements in the Ebola response (Chair, Fanta Kaba, MOH Guinea)

16:15-18:00 Country presentations (MOH representatives, WHO, partners) and discussion with focus on progress achieved on IPC as result of activities and assessments during the response phase
16:15 Guinea (Alpha Ahmadou Bah, MOH Guinea)
16:45 Liberia (Catherine Cooper, MOH Liberia)
17:15 Sierra Leone (Nanah Sesay Kamara, MOHS Sierra Leone)
17:45 Plenary discussion
18:00 Closure of the day (Catherine Cooper, MOH Liberia)
19:00 Reception and dinner – culture group from Kendeja
Day 2 morning

8:30 Review of previous day and agenda (Kumblytee Johnson, MOH Liberia)

Session 3. Country presentations on IPC implementation strategies and activities, and monitoring and evaluation indicators and systems, in the context of recovery plans (Chair, Nanah Sesay Kamara, MOH Sierra Leone)

9:00-12:30 Country presentations (MOH representatives, WHO, partners) and discussion on recovery strategic plans with focus on:

- National recovery strategic plans with focus on IPC (including patient and healthcare workers' safety and WASH) - Immediate priorities and needs and medium-/long-term objectives
- IPC implementation strategies and current activities, and monitoring and evaluation indicators and systems, including roles and responsibilities, partners/WHO/MOH collaborations to support the country plans.

9:00 Guinea (Fanta Kaba, MOH Guinea)
10:00 Liberia (Catherine Cooper, MOH Liberia)
11:00 BREAK
11:30 Sierra Leone (Hossinatu Mary Kanu, MOHS Sierra Leone)

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

Day 2 afternoon

Session 4. Overviews on implementation tools and training packages (Chair, Joyce Hightower, WHO Guinea)

13:30 Overview of available approaches and tools for IPC and WASH implementation and assessment in the context of recovery plans (Julie Storr, WHO HQ)

14:00 Focus on training needs and available packages in the 3 countries (Anthony Twyman, WHO Liberia, and Joyce Hightower, WHO Guinea)

14:20 Focus on IPC integration and collaborations with other areas of health systems recovery (Rosa Constanza Vallenas, WHO HQ, and April Baller, WHO Liberia)

14:40 Discussion

Session 5. Working groups (introduced by Nana Mensah Abrampah, WHO HQ)

15:15-17:30 Working groups:

1. Criteria to define common IPC and WASH minimum standards in health-care facilities (Facilitators, Neil Gupta, CDC HQ, and Margaret Montgomery, WHO HQ)
2. IPC and WASH key monitoring indicators and systems for benchmarking, data sharing and development of improvement action plans (Facilitator, Julie Storr, WHO HQ)
3. IPC and WASH priorities, plans and technical support needs from medium-/longer-term recovery (2016-17) (Facilitators, Catherine Cooper, MOH Liberia, and Michael Forson, UNICEF Liberia)

4. Unified approaches and mechanisms for cross-country learning and collaboration, and concrete inter-country IPC activities (Facilitator, Omar Sam, WHO AFRO)

17:30-18:30 Meeting of the WHO HQ, AFRO and country teams

Day 3 morning

8:30 Review of previous day and agenda (Faith Kamara, MOH Liberia)

Session 6. Reporting from the working groups

8:50 Reporting from working group 1

9:15 Final discussion on IPC minimum standards (facilitated by Neil Gupta, CDC HQ)

9:45 Reporting from working group 2

10:10 Final discussion on key monitoring indicators and benchmarking (facilitated by Julie Storr, WHO HQ, and Anthony Twyman, WHO Liberia)

10:40 BREAK

11:00 Reporting from working group 3

11:25 Final discussion on IPC priorities, plans and needs for 2016-17 (facilitated by Catherine Cooper, MOH Liberia, and Michael Forson, UNICEF Liberia)

11:55 Reporting from working group 4

12:20 Final discussion proposed unified approaches and activities for cross-country collaboration (facilitated by Omar Sam, WHO AFRO)

13:00 LUNCH

Day 3 afternoon

Session 7. Next steps and meeting conclusions (Chair, Jean Bosco Ndihokubwayo, WHO AFRO)

14:00 Next steps for continuous sharing and reporting mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities (Benedetta Allegranzi, WHO HQ)

14:30 Summary of meeting outcomes, key recommendations and follow up actions (April Baller/Anthony Twyman/B. Allegranzi)

15:30 BREAK

16:00 Closing Ceremony (MOH, WR Liberia, other MOH delegations)

17:00-18:30 Meetings of the country representatives with WHO and partners